

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00735 080340Z

64

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 030956

R 071500Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPETOWN 0735

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PINT,SF

SUBJ :ANOTHER UP COMPROMISE

REF: CAPE TOWN 590 AND 604

BEGIN SUMMARY. CONSERVATIVE CAPE UNITED PARTY (UP)LEADER MYBURGH STREICHER NARROWLY REELECTED AS PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN. ELECTION OF REFORM-MINDED MP WALLY KINGWILL AS VICE-CHAIRMAN WILL PROBABLY KEEP MOST OF STREICHER'S OPPONENTS FROM DESERTING PARTY. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER HEATED DEBATE AMPLY REVEALING STRONG CLEAVAGE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT WINGS, CONSERVATIVE MYBURGH STREICHER WAS REELECTED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM AS PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN AT CAPE UP CONGRESS NOV.5. DEBATE AND ELECTION HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS,BUT REPORTS INDICATE THAT STREICHER BEAT REFORMIST CANDIDATE KOBUS VAN EEDEN BY ONLY ABOUT 50 OUT OF A TOTAL 700 VOTES CAST.

2. VOTE FOLLOWED MORNING MEETING OF CAPE HEAD COMMITTEE WHICH REJECTED APOLOGIES OF FIVE EXPELLED REFORMIST LEADERS (REFTELS) BUT LEFT WAY OPEN FOR THEM TO REJOIN PARTY AT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00735 080340Z

FUTURE DATE. IN LESS HEATED,BUT PERHAPS EQUALLY IMPORTANT

ELECTION, REFORM-ORIENTED MP WALLY KINGWILL ELECTED
VICE-CHAIRMAN OVER CONSERVATIVE SENATOR PIET SWANEPOEL.

3. IN NOV.6 OPEN MEETING OF CONGRESS, EMBOFF SAW RIVAL
FACTIONS STILL BATTLING. INNOCUOUS RESOLUTION EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR STREICHER PROMPTED HOUR-LONG BLOOD-LETTING IN WHICH
REFORMISTS HACKED AWAY AT PARTY LEADER. THOUGH OBVIOUSLY
BITTER, MOST REFORMIST LEADERS, INCLUDING RYK MORKEL,
CHAIRMAN OF THE REFORM-CONTROLLED CAPE PENINSULA COUNCIL, WHO
HAD NOMINATED VAN EEDEN, NEVERTHELESS SUPPORTED RESOLUTION
AFTER WARNING STREICHER TO CHANGE HIS WAYS. APPROVAL OF
MEASURE BY VAST MAJORITY OF DELEGATES MANIFESTED WIDESPREAD
DESIRE FOR PARTY UNITY.

4. COMMENT: KEY FIGURE IN ELECTION WAS MILD-MANNERED KINGWILL,
WHO REFORMISTS HAD WANTED TO RUN AGAINST STREICHER. THOUGH
REFORM-ORIENTED, HE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH CLIQUE OF MOST RADICAL
REFORM LEADERS. GIVEN CLOSENESS OF VOTE BETWEEN STREICHER
AND VAN EEDEN. IT PROBABLE KINGWILL'S 'MODERATE' IMAGE
WOULD HAVE ATTRACTED ENOUGH UNCOMMITTED DELEGATES TO WIN, HAD HE
ACCEPTED NOMINATION TO RUN. HOWEVER, HE WAS REPORTEDLY
CONCERNED THAT HIS POSSIBLE VICTORY IN CHAIRMANSHIP RACE MIGHT
PRECIPITATE RIGHT WING SPLIT OFF. SAME FEAR SHARED BY
SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, WHO REPORTEDLY URGED KINGWILL NOT TO
OPPOSE STREICHER. MOST REFORMISTS HOPE THAT AS VICE-CHAIRMAN
KINGWILL WILL BE ABLE TO FURTHER THEIR INTERESTS IN PARTY
AND PROTECT GROUP FROM STREICHER'S 'DISCIPLINE'. KINGWILL
WAS MODERATE CONFIDENT IN NOV.6 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF
THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP MOST REFORMISTS IN PARTY.
HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME OR ALL OF FIVE EXPELLEES AND THEIR
CLOSE FOLLOWERS MIGHT LEAVE UP TO FORM NEW PARTY OR POLITICAL
FRONT (PRESUMABLY WITH PROGRESSIVES).

HURD

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